

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 14225 041200Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----093717 050638Z /11  
R 041154Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0855

S E C R E T BONN 14225

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP, VM, US  
SUBJECT: NGUYEN CO THACH VISIT TO BONN

REFS: A) STATE 187632; B) BONN 11397

1. IN RESPONSE TO REF A, EMBOFF DISCUSSED VISIT WITH FOREIGN OFFICE DIRECTOR OF INDOCHINA AFFAIRS STEGER.
2. STEGER CONFIRMED THAT THACH HAD GONE TO GREAT LENGTHS TO GIVE IMPRESSION OF SRV OPENNESS AND FLEXIBILITY REGARDING RELATIONS WITH US. STEGER SAID THIS FLEXIBILITY COULD BE INTERPRETED AS AN INDICATION THAT VIETNAMESE WERE READY TO DISCUSS US POSITION THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS MUST PRECEDE HANDLING OF QUESTION OF ASSISTANCE TO SRV. AS OPPOSED TO HIS COLLEAGUE (VIETNAMESE DESK OFFICER HYMER) IN CONVERSATION REPORTED REF B, STEGER DID NOT RECALL THACH SPECIFICALLY LINKING SRV FLEXIBILITY WITH US POSITION ON NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. (HYMER HAD BEEN QUITE SPECIFIC ON THIS POINT.) HE WAS ALSO SOMEWHAT LESS INCLINED THAN HYMER TO INTERPRET THACH'S REMARKS AS A SIGNAL TO THE US, THOUGH HE AGREED THAT THIS COULD WELL HAVE BEEN THE CASE.

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3. STEGER SAID HE WAS MOST STRUCK BY THACH'S WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS SRV FOREIGN POLICY WITH GERMAN OFFICIALS. TRADITIONALLY, THE VIETNAMESE HAD AVOIDED SUCH DISCUSSIONS. THACH, HE SAID, REFERRED CONTINUOUSLY TO A "NEW SITUATION" IN INDOCHINA CAUSED BY HANOI'S CONFLICT WITH PEKING. THACH MADE CLEAR THAT THIS "NEW

SITUATION" WAS FORCING THE SRV TO TAKE NEW STEPS,  
INCLUDING THE BROADENING OF ITS RELATIONS WITH WESTERN  
EUROPE AND THE NORMALIZING OF TIES TO THE US. HE NOTED  
THAT THACH HAD ALSO EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH

ASEAN BUT HAD GIVEN NO INDICATION OF GIVE ON  
SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES.  
MEEHAN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BONN14225  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 187632, 78 BONN 11397  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1827371  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NGUYEN CO THACH VISIT TO BONN  
**TAGS:** PDIP, VM, US, GE, (NGUYEN CO THACH)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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